

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ECON, EDEV, EG
SUBJ: TUNNELS UNDER SUEZ CANAL

. PRES SADAT'S TRIP TO THE SUEZ CANAL GOVERNORATE OVER PAST TWO WEEKS HIGHLIGHTED EGYPTIAN INTENTION TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS ANNOUNCED IN 1974 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THREE TUNNELS UNDER SUEZ CANAL. ON JUNE 6 IN SUEZ CITY, SADAT INAUGURATED CONSTRUCTION OF AL-SHATT (AKA MARTYR AHMAD HAMDY) TUNNEL WHICH IS BEING DUG BY JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OSMAC COMPOSED OF OSMAN AHMAD OSMAN'S ARAB CONTRACTORS AND TARMAC, A BRITISH FIRM. WORK ON TUNNEL WAS, WE UNDERSTAND, PREVIOUSLY BEGUN, THEN STOPPED BECUASE COMPANY AND MIN OF HOUSING AND RECONSTRUCTION HAD FALLING OUT OVER MINISTRY'S NON PAYMENT OF FEES AND EXPENSES. PROJECT IS JUST GETTING STARTED AGAIN. BRITISH COMPANY REPORTEDLY USING EXPENSIVE MODERAN EQUIPMENT AND PLANS CONSTRUCTION ON TWENTY FOUR HOUR WORKDAY TO ENABLE COMPLETION OF TUNNEL BY MID 79; IN EFFORT TO REDUCE COST OF USE OF EQUIPMENT.

2. HASSIB ALLAH AL-KAFRAWI, RECENTLY APPOINTED ADVISOR TO PM FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND NEW CITIES DEVELOPMENT, IS IN CHARGE OF COMPLETION OF TUNNELS. KAFRAWI TOLD EMBOFF
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RECENTLY THAT SADAT'S INTEREST IN TUNNELS WAS HEIGHTENED DURING PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT TO CANAL. PRESIDENT DESIRES TO SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE PORTIONS OF SINAI WHICH HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO EGYPT UNDER SINAI I AND II DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. PRESIDENT VIEWS AS FIRST MAJOR STEP COMPLETION OF THE THREE TUNNELS IN ORDER TO REGULARIZE INTERCHANGE BETWEEN EGYPT PROPER AND SINAI. SADAT PLANS FOR SINAI CALL FOR NEW

CITIES AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS TO AID DEVELOPMENT
OF AREA.

3. NEXT TUNNEL TO BE DUG WILL BE ONE PLANNED FOR QANTARA,
JUST SOUTH OF PORT SAID, BRITISH, FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN FIRMS,
ACCORDING TO KAFRAWI, ARE CURRENTLY COMPETING FOR CONTRACT,
AGAIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH ARAB CONTRACTORS. AUSTRIANS SEEM
TO HAVE ADVANTAGE BECAUSE THEY APPARENTLY ARE OFFERING TO DO
SOME OF WORK UNDER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. COMPLETION OF
THIS TUNNEL WILL BE IN LATE 79 INSTEAD OF 1980 AS ORIGINALLY
PLANNED.

4. SITE FOR MIDDLE TUNNEL, PLANNED FOR SEVERSOIR, HAS NOT YET
BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED. REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF AREA
(PERFORMED BY OKLAHOMA STATE UNIV REMOTE SENSING PROJECT IN
1975) SHOWED THAT PLANNED PLACEMENT OF TUNNEL WAS COINCIDENT
WITH FAULT AT ENTRANCE TO BITTER LAKES.

5. COMMENT: KAFRAWI DESCRIBED TUNNELS AS HIS FIRST MAJOR
RESPONSIBILITY. ONCE COMPLETED, HE EXPECTS TO BE GIVE JOB
OF DEVELOPMENT OF SINAI IN ADDITION TO HIS OVERSEEING
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW URBAN CENTERS AND CORRESPONDING IN-
FRASTRUCTURE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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